GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:962
ANSWERED ON:23.10.2008
HOVERING OF AIRCRAFT OVER DELHI AND MUMBAI
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Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of aircraft have to hover over busy airports like Delhi and Mumbai waiting for landing signal;

(b) if so, whether it adds to the Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) expenses of the airlines;

(c) if so, the extent thereof;

(d) whether any new navigation system is being considered in this regard;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether the aircraft can be given time slots so that they take off at the given time and land accordingly to avoid bunching up near Delhi like it is provided in other international airports; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL)

(a), (b),(c), (d)& (e) Due to rapid increase in the air trafic, certain infrastructure constraints have been faced at some busy airports like Mumbai and Delhi. However, with the construction of new runway 11/29 and upgradation of ANS infrastructure such a s new navigational equipments viz. DVOR, DME & CAT-IIIB ILS provided for third runway 11/29 at Delhi airport, the situation is expected to improve substantially. Further, augumentation of Advanced Surface Movement Guidance and Control System (ASMGCS) i s in progress, which provides surveillance coverage of all vehicles & aircraft on ground in the movement areas of the airport even during poor visibility. With the help of ASMGCS coupled with ILS, congestion of air traffic over the airfield particularly during low visibility can be reduced. Provision for ASMGCS is also made at Mumbai airport.

(f) & (g): In accordance with the international practice, the time slots for the operation of all flights are proposed by the airlines themselves on the basis of commercial inputs and operational feasibility. These slots are approved after obtaining clearance from the airport operators and ANS service providers who examine the feasibility to handle the flights at that time. It has been the endeavour of the Government to spread the flights to non peak hours so as to avoid bunching of flights.